

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00779 011512Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /078 W
-----037391 012331Z /13

R 011435Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5544
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0779

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, LY, UR
SUBJECT: LIBYAN-SOVIET RELATIONS: NOT SO SMOOTH

1. DURING RECENT CONVERSATION AT JORDANIAN RECEPTION SOVIET DCM SOULTANOV AGAIN REGALED ME ON SUBJECT OF INSTABILITY OF LIBYAN REGIME. HE BELIEVES THAT QADHAFI'S CURRENT ATTEMPTS TO SUPPRESS CONSERVATIVE RELIGIOUS LEADERS IS DANGEROUS AND COULD HAVE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES. SOULTANOV SAID SOVIETS ARE HOPEFUL THAT QADHAFI WOULD WEATHER DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE HIS DISAPPEARANCE FROM THE LEADERSHIP WOULD LEAD TO SERIOUS AND DANGEROUS DISORDERS WITHIN LIBYA WHICH COULD PLACE IN JEOPARDY WELFARE AND SAFETY OF ALL FOREIGNERS. SOULTANOV ADDED THAT SOVIET EMBASSY WAS NOW RECEIVING EXTRA PROTECTIVE SURVEILLANCE BY LIBYAN PLAINCLOTHES POLICE AGENTS. HE BELIEVED REASON FOR ADDED SECURITY WAS LIBYAN FEARS OF POSSIBLE DISSIDENT ACTION AGAINST SOVIET EMBASSY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00779 011512Z

2. SOULTANOV SAID MANY DIFFICULTIES PLAGUED LIBYAN-SOVIET RELATIONS. CURRENT AND MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM WAS SLOW PAYMENTS BY LIBYA FOR PURCHASES FROM USSR. HE CLAIMED SOVIET EMBASSY HERE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOSCOW TO PRESS LIBYANS FOR PROMPT PAYMENT OF PAST DUE OBLIGATIONS.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION (MAY 31) SOVIET AMBASSADOR ANISSIMOV CONFIRMED THAT THERE WERE INDEED PROBLEMS IN LIBYAN-SOVIET RELATIONS. HE SAID LIBYA WAS HIS MOST DIFFICULT POST. DESPITE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON POLITICAL MATTERS, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS WERE FAR FROM SATISFACTORY. HE CLAIMED LARGE SOVIET COMMUNITY CAUSED HIM CONSTANT HEADACHES. MOST PROBLEMS AROSE, HE SAID, FROM SOVIET CITIZENS MAKING THEIR OWN BOOZE AND ATTRACTING THE UNFAVORABLE ATTENTION OF LIBYAN POLICE. ANISSIMOV SAID HE ENVIED THE US POSITION OF SATISFACTORY CULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BUT WITHOUT POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT. HE FINDS QADHAFI VERY INDEPENDENT MINDED AND OFTEN UNPREDICTABLE.

4. PURPOSE OF GRATUITOUS REMARKS ESCAPES ME. PRESUMABLY SOVIETS FEELING SOMEWHAT INSECURE AND ARE PROBING. LIQUIDITY PROBLEM THROUGH WHICH LIBYA CURRENTLY PASSING MAY INDEED AFFECT PAYMENTS TO SOVIETS. ALSO LIKELY THAT DIFFERENCES OVER ERITREAN QUESTION ARE PLAGUING RELATIONS. CARLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TRIPOL00779
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780230-0208
Format: TEL
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806105/aaaadmnu.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2bb5417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2153616
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LIBYAN-SOVIET RELATIONS: NOT SO SMOOTH
TAGS: PEPR, PINR, LY, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2bb5417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014